

Elk county, Pennsylvania, the Billiken and Peter Pan of the game.

Waddell was a mine of fun for a sporting page humorist; a horrible example for the temperance lecturer; a joy to the fans; a terror to batters, and a nightmare to the managers who had him.

A boy who never grew up, the gigantic Waddell was baseball's Peter Pan. At one time he was almost a national figure because of his eccentricities.

Baseball was more joyous because of him. He was a jester, but his comedy never harmed anyone and he was never vulgar. He was a fun-maker extraordinary. He drove away gloom like the sun dispersing a fog. He made everybody happy. Millions smiled at his antics. He was the Billiken of the game.

Now Waddell, victim of tuberculosis, is paying the price of his years of night-hawking and revelry, but those who know him best say he will greet the reaper with a grin and a joke.

Waddell went from one team to another between 1897 and 1900, but in 1901 "found" himself and became a mighty factor for Jim Hart's Chicago team. The day Waddell and Mathewson fought their duel, which the "Rube" won, he was a Chicago hero.

Waddell loved the lights. He liked to don a bartender's apron and serve drinks to a crowd. Once, having wandered upon the stage of a theater where an animal act was on, he fooled with a lion until the beast clawed his arm, whereupon Waddell repaired to a police station and, while his wounds were being dressed, unraveled a tale of being held up and stabbed by highwaymen, whom he had bested, this story being intended to keep Hart from fining him next day.

Connie Mack handled Waddell better than anyone else. Mack's way was to make him believe the other fellows regarded him as easy, where-

upon "Rube" would shoot them across so fast they looked like marbles.

While with the Athletics Waddell pitched the first game of a double-header, winning after 14 innings, and then refused to leave the box, winning a nine-inning game. He won a 20-inning contest from Boston, against Cy Young, and a 17-inning game from Bill Dinneen. He offered to pitch a four-game series against the White Sox and won the first two games, but was knocked out of the box in the third.

Waddell tried football at Butler, Pa., and when he walked upon the field with a keg of nails balanced on each hand, the opposing team left the field.

In the winter of 1903-4 Waddell starred in "The Stain of Guilt." His act consisted of foiling the villains, but he put so much realism into his acting that new villains were necessary every week or so.

Many of the tales told of Waddell were exaggerated. He left a delightful memory, free from stings. A physical marvel, with few equals as a fun-maker or a pitcher, irrepressible and devil-may-care, he sowed fun broadcast.

#### —o—o— PLAYING SAFE

The lawyer was drawing up old Furrow's will.

"I hereby bequeath all my property to my wife," dictated the son of the soil. "Got that?"

"Yes," answered the lawyer.

"On condition that she marries again within a year."

The legal light sat back, puzzled. "But why?" he asked.

The aged farmer smiled.

"Because," was the reply, "I want somebody to be sorry I died!"

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Huh! that Republican national committee talks of calling an "extraordinary convention. The party's committee talks of calling an "extra-and pretty near broke its back,